



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> : A61K 35/78 // (A61K 35/78, 31:505)		A1	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 00/23089</b>
			(43) International Publication Date: 27 April 2000 (27.04.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/07556		(81) Designated States: CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(22) International Filing Date: 8 October 1999 (08.10.99)		<b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(30) Priority Data: 60/104,710 19 October 1998 (19.10.98) US			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MERCK PATENT GMBH [DE/DE]; Frankfurter Strasse 250, D-64293 Darmstadt (DE).			
(72) Inventors; and			
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BUCHHOLZ, Herwig [DE/DE]; Auf dem Mühlberg 75, D-60599 Frankfurt (DE). DUDDA, Angela [DE/DE]; Kaiser-Sigmund-Strasse 32, D-60320 Frankfurt (DE). MEDUSKI, Jerzy [US/US]; 6806 Vista Del Mar Lane, Playa Del Rey, CA 90298-7640 (US).			
(54) Title: NATURAL FORMULATION FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF DEPRESSION, CONTAINING ST JOHN'S WORT AND DERIVATIVES OF DIHYDRO- AND TETRAHYDROFOLIC ACID			
(57) Abstract  The present invention relates to novel compositions containing a combination of the plant St. John's Wort ( <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> L.), its extracts of active ingredients and derivatives of dihydro- and tetrahydrofolic acid. This natural formulation is useful for the treatment and prevention of depression with a better effect than the ingredient compounds alone.			